

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-03

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ARA/MEX/JDREYFUSS (BY PHONE)

SCS/LFWALENTYNOWICZ

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P 251106Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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JOVA FROM WALENTYNOWICZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

1. PRESSURE FROM GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA SOURCES CONTINUE TO MOUNT ON FRONCZAK CASE. NATION-WIDE COVERAGE OF CASE SEEMS IMMINENT. LETTERS (COPIES OF WHICH WERE POUCHED EARLIER) OVER PRESIDENT FORD'S SIGNATURE TO MESSRS. FRONCZAK AND MCGOWAN INDICATE PRESIDENTIAL CONCERN AND COMMITMENT. MOREOVER, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON CASE WHICH WELL PUBLICIZED HERE, GIVES CASE EXTREMELY HIGH PROFILE. DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF EMBASSY'S CONSTANT EFFORTS IN MONITORING THIS CASE, AND OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AS WELL IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FAR BEYOND USUAL REQUIREMENTS. WE APPRECIATE THAT NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR EMBASSY MAY ENGAGE IN DIRECT

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POLICE ACTIVITIES, AND THAT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE

GIVEN NO INDICATION OF DESIRING DIRECT INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE.

2. NEVERTHELESS, AT THIS POINT SOME EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES APPEAR NECESSARY. NEEDED IS A VISIBLE ASPECT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT WHICH CLEARLY AND PUBLICLY INDICATES FULL SUPPORT AND CAREFUL MONITORING OF ENTIRE CASE, PARTICULARLY THOROUGHNESS OF INVESTIGATION.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SENSITIVITIES OF THE MEXICANS, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT A TECHNICALLY ORIENTED MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE POLICE AUTHORITIES BOTH IN MEXICO CITY AND GUERRERO COULD BE SET UP TO EFFECT SUCH INVOLVEMENT. ROLE OF U.S. PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE BASED ON THEIR ABILITY TO ANALYZE AND, IF AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY, MAKE SUGGESTIONS IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON CONDUCT OF CASE.

3. SINCE PRACTICAL INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR EFFECTIVENESS IS SUCH A SESSION, WE WISH TO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE OR EXPERIENCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SUCH AS AN FBI AGENT, PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY ALONG WITH SENIOR CONOFF AND ANY OTHER EMBOFFS WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE. WHILE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION COULD OF COURSE NOT RPT NOT BE DIRECTIVE, MANY WIDELY KNOWN ASPECTS OF THE CASE STILL REMAIN UNCLEAR AND EVEN CONTRADICTORY AND THUS ARE CAUSING GREAT FRUSTRATION AND RESENTMENT. FOR EXAMPLE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, IF NOT INCREDIBLE, FOR THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED TO HAVE TURNED OVER TO FOUR UNKNOWN CIVILIANS SOMEONE WHOM THEY JUST ROBBED.

THE RESPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF EACH OF THE PRESIDENTS REQUIRES AT A MINIMUM A CREDIBLE AND PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATION THAT FULLY RESPONDS TO EVERY LINE OF REASONABLE INQUIRY.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S RESPONSE SOONEST AS TO PRACTICAL FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING, WHO COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE APPROACHED ON MEXICAN SIDE FOR PARTICIPATION, AND HOW IT COULD BE SET UP. KISSINGER
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